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PC 510 The Servant as Pastoral Care Giver

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Final

Servant As Pastoral Care-Giver PC510XL

From Asbury Theological Seminary

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This syllabus may be amended prior to the beginning of class.

Note: This syllabus has been prepared for members of the course and others by permission. It is not intended for general distribution on the internet. Permission to copy or distribution in whole or part must be requested from the professor.

I. WELCOME

WELCOME to PC510XL, Servant as Pastoral Caregiver, also known as Pastoral Care and Counseling. I look forward to walking through this journey of new learnings with you. I bring to you pastoral experience (both in the USA and abroad –Zimbabwe). I have also worked as an Individual and Family therapist. If you would like to read more about me, [click here](#). I believe that theory and practice should go together. Practice of ministry must be informed by theory, while at the same time, theory must draw on theoretical underpinnings. One of the goals for this course is an integration of theory and practice of ministry especially as it pertains to pastoral care and counseling. The experiences you bring to this course about caring for others are invaluable and I hope you will utilize them in this course. If you are interested in my academic record [click here](#)

II. OFFICE HOURS

I will be online Tuesdays and Thursdays afternoons (1:30-3:00pm Eastern Time) to respond to your issues, comments etc. My direct line is: 859-858-2289. I will inform you of any changes to this arrangement. The first day for class is Sept 6, 2005. If you need to contact me, (personal matter) please use my office e-mail or call.

III. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you need help from the Asbury staff:

ExL Contact Information:

For **general questions and administrative assistance** regarding the ExL program, contact Dale Hale:

ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu

Phone: (859) 858-2393

For **technical support**, **library research support**, **library loans**, and **ExL media** contact Information Commons:

Info_Commons@asburyseminary.edu

Phone: (859) 858-2233

Toll-free: (866) 454-2733

Accessing Information Commons Materials:

1. General Questions:

- The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here:

<http://www.asburyseminary.edu/icommons/hours.shtml>.

2. Materials Requests:

- To search the library catalog for available materials, click here: <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/icommons/index.shtml>

- ExL Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.

- ExL students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

3. Research Questions:

- ExL students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help choosing a paper topic, determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

4. Online Databases:

- To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/icommons/index.shtml> and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration WebPages. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about pastoral care. I mean that in two senses: First, the ability of pastors to care for their own lives. Second, the ability to provide spiritual and whole-person care for other persons. Traditionally, pastoral care is largely understood in the latter sense. I consider that unfortunate since the ability to care for others is partly based on competence in self-care. Thus, this course begins with an emphasis on personal care. This theme shall be revisited throughout the semester in various forms. The bulk of the course will be devoted to having students develop the ability to think like a pastor and becoming a person who communicates a pastoral presence. You will also learn about the unique role of a pastor and the basic kinds of personal and collective concerns that pastors typically encounter.

General Goals

1. Develop and incorporate an understanding of pastoral care as a valid component of ministry, foundational to caring for others
2. Identify personal issues that may potentially strengthen or harm your ministry.
3. Establish healthy personal boundaries and ethical behaviors.
4. Learn how to think and act like a pastor.
5. Integrate learning from other theological studies through reflection upon specific acts of ministry.
6. Understand some of the basic principles of listening, empathic responding and conversing as a pastor.
7. Discover models for recruiting, training and supervision of lay caregivers.

Objectives of the Course

To help you cultivate the habit of thinking like a pastor in your interactions with people during times of caring for them as an integral part and extension of the ministry of the community of faith.

Specific Objectives: Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

A. Explain in writing:

1. An understanding of the biblical, theological and theoretical foundations for personal care and counseling.
2. A sound rationale for seeing personal care (ministry) as foundational to providing pastoral care
3. A plan for care and counseling from a specific case example.

4. Participate in a team research project and present recommendations for action plans to a pastoral care concern.
5. Critically reflect on pastoral care and counseling issues.
6. Give critical, yet caring, comments on the ideas of other colleagues.

B. Be able to articulate the use of basic listening skills and the art of hosting a pastoral conversation.

C. Use multiple resources for discovering information about caring ministry, especially the World Wide Web.

D. Present and respond to challenging material in a highly interactive dialogue with increased perceived ability to raise critical questions and make helpful and insightful responses to the work of others.

V. COURSE PROCEDURES

Online Guidelines

Please be sure to share a brief profile (maybe even a picture) of yourself in the Discussion Center. My profile can be found.

While I am sure that each of you are aware of the intended use of each of the items which appear in the PC510XL folder, let me summarize the manner in which I intend to use them this semester:

The Course Center

The Course Center will contain a copy of the syllabus as well as all class modules.

The Discussion Center

Use the Discussion Center for all public communications. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the modules, the assignments, or anything else, which would be of interest to your classmates and me, you should post to the Discussion Center.

The Office

Use this site for private correspondence between you and me. This will contain items that you do not want to appear publicly before all of your classmates.

The Archives Center

The Archives Center will be used for storing correspondence that has already been explored during the course of the semester. This keeps the Discussion Center from becoming too cluttered with old messages.

The Chat Center

The Chat Center is intended primarily for real-time interaction among students. You can get together with other members mostly for non-course related questions (all other discussion belongs in the Discussion Center). Just remember, when the chat is closed all of the information is gone.

The Resource Center

This Center provides access to a number of specific tools available to all ExL students. These include access to the B.L. Fisher Library, the Services in Estes Chapel, ExL Chapels and Updates, Guidelines for Success, Helpful Hints, Interesting Links, a PowerPoint Viewer, (which you can use to view my overheads) as well as a Real Audio player. I encourage you to take advantage of all these resources, and particularly to utilize the chapel access in order to connect with the seminary's on-campus opportunities for spiritual growth.

VI. COURSE TEXTS

A. Required Reading:

1. Fortune Marie, *Is Nothing Sacred*, Cleveland Ohio: United Church Press, 1999.
2. Hunter Rodney, Gen. Ed. Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling: **See module dates for specific readings**) Pastor, Pastoral Care of, pp. 830-832; Burnout, pp. 112-113; Prayer and worship life, Pastor's, pp. 939-940; Identity, Pastoral pp. 567-568; Pastoral Theology pp. 867-872; Pastoral Theological Methodology pp. 862-864; Pastoral Care and Counseling p. 845; Pastoral Care pp.832-836; Pastoral Counseling pp. 849-854; Clergy, Empirical studies of, pp. 171-175;
(These are some of the articles we will be using from the dictionary. You can borrow a copy from any of the seminary libraries. Will be on reserve on the Kentucky campus)
3. Headley, Anthony J. *Achieving Balance in Ministry*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 1999.
4. Kollar, Charles Allen: *Solution-Focused Pastoral Counseling*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
5. Kuenning, Delores. *Helping People Through Grief*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1987.
6. Nichols, Michael P. *The Lost Art of Listening*. New York: Guilford, 1995.
7. Steinborn, Melvin, *The Lay Driven Church: How to Empower the People In Your Church to Share in the Task of Ministry*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1997.
8. Steinke, Peter, *How Your Church Family Works*. Washington, DC: Alban Institute, 1993.
9. Switzer, David. *The Minister As Crisis Counselor*
10. Oswald M. Roy, *Clergy Self-Care: Finding a balance for effective Ministry*, Alban Institute, 2002 (older or reprint)

B. Recommended Readings:

The readings below represent a small sample of works that you may draw from. You may feel free to read any material relevant to the topics in the modules. You may choose books, or journal articles.

Hands, Donald, & Fehr, Wayne. Spiritual Wholeness for Clergy

The Damnation of Theron Ware

Mosley, E.E. Priorities in Ministry.

Patton, John. Pastoral Care In Context

Peterson, Eugene. Working the Angles

Rhode, Helga. "Dealing With Conflict and Confrontation" (library reserve).

Seamands, David. The Healing of Damaged Emotions

Shawchuck, Norman & Heuser, Roger. Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself While Serving the People.

Stone, Howard W. Theological Context for Pastoral Care Giving.

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I discuss most of the following requirements from the perspective of meeting the basic criteria for a C grade. There are additional expectations to meet requirements for the B and A levels. For those grade levels, please review the requirements for each grade level under Grade Contracting.

Reading log

For completing this requirement at the C level, I require 1200 pages. Keep a log of your reading. In your log, include author and title and the total number of pages read. All relevant readings count. Reading may include material from the required texts, recommended texts and other sources (for example, readings from the recommended list counts).

Personal Reflection papers

Four (4) personal reflections are required to meet expectations at the C level.

1. **Definition:** Personal reflections are opportunities for you to expand your knowledge by putting into written form the thoughts, experiences and questions regarding a particular subject. This is your opportunity to integrate the theory with personal experiences and or practice of ministry. Questions can be raised at the end of your reflection paper about the subject you are writing.
2. **Subjects:** Limit personal reflections to subjects directly related to ministry especially material covered in the modules. These subjects can be taken from presentations by the professor posted in the Course Center; readings in textbooks and research; personal experiences; personal thoughts and feelings related to ministry, and or pastoral care and counseling. I do not see personal journaling, diary writing or blowing off steam as meeting this requirement.
3. **Methodology:** Use the following guidelines for your writing of reflection papers. Use personal pronouns. When referring to yourself, use I, me or my, in all cases and never use "you" unless it is a direct quote, or it is addressed to the instructor.

Avoid words like must, should, need to, ought to, have to or other moral imperatives that sound "preachy. Save these words for emergencies.

Avoid generalizations or analyzing words and phrases such as: "the truth is," "in reality," "all people," "everyone," "people say," "research says" and "you know."

Write as specifically as possible. Use the journalistic format of who, what, when, where, and how.

Write for your own learning. Be yourself by writing boldly. Demonstrate the struggle that comes from discovering new information, ideas and concepts. Ask yourself good growth oriented questions rather than asking the professor too many questions.

Length of the personal reflections: Two no. 12 font size, double-spaced, 8 1/2 x 11 pages about 3 to 3 1/2 pages will be written per reflection. The quality of the letter is more important than the number of pages.

Research Paper

B. Team Research Paper:

1. Definition: A team is a small group of three to four course colleagues mutually committed to researching a pastoral care topic and writing a composite report with specific recommendations for action. Working together with colleagues to achieve a common goal is an important skill in the life of a church. This will demand more of you than doing the job alone. Most academic work is individually produced; on the other hand most work in the church is accomplished through cooperation with others. This course is also designed to help you learn how to work with others in cooperative program development through conceptualization, planning, research, writing and execution of a specific pastoral care concern.

2. Methodology: Each team will choose a pastoral care issue not covered in class, but of mutual interest to all members of the team from the suggested list provided in Course Center for you. The paper will begin with a focal problem or scenario. The first page will give a brief Vignette (short story) that situates the research project in the context of ministry. The last page will give a summary of findings from the research and recommendations for action to meet the needs of the initial pastoral care concern.

Teams are required to do an Internet search on the topic chosen for research. Each paper will be graded according to the following criteria:

The Opening Vignette -	Is relevant to research topic Presents a feasible pastoral problem.
The Body of Research -	Flows naturally out of the opening vignette Is well integrated by the team, as if written by one person. Must use the Internet as a resource (explicitly stated in paper). Is thoroughly addressed by the team. Is written in a well-constructed writing style with minimal errors throughout.

The Closing/ Conclusion -	Makes practical use of the research in responding to the initial problem. Brings closure to the team's paper.
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Case Application

I will provide a case scenario drawn from real life. I will then ask you to respond to a number of questions deriving from the course material. You will relate your answers to the case material. I will grade this assignment on how well you are able to relate your learning to the substantive issues raised in the case. This case provides you another opportunity to integrate real life practical situations with the theories learned from the whole course.

IX. ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Reading and log

Due Dec 9, 2005 by midnight EST

Personal Reflections

Due Dates – Sept 23, Oct 7, Oct 21, and Nov 4 – all due by midnight

Case Application

Due Date – Dec 5th, 2005 by midnight EST
(The case will be e-mailed to you by Nov 30, 2005)

Research paper

Due Date – **Nov 18, 2005** by midnight EST

Team assignments

Week of Sept 18-20. List of topics to choose from will be posted.

X. COURSE OUTLINE

I have provided the modules for the course together with appropriate dates for completion of reading assignments. Please try to complete the appropriate readings prior to the beginning of each module. Where there is no assigned text, you may draw from any relevant material.

Further details on actual assignments for each module will be posted in the Course Center prior to the beginning of each module.

Module 1 – Sept 6-16, 2005

Week 1 – 2

Personal Foundations for Pastoral Care

Read from any of the following works

Headley, Anthony J. Achieving Balance in Ministry

Oswald, M. Roy, Clergy Self-Care

Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling: Pastor, Pastoral Care of, pp 830-832; Burnout, pp 112-113; Prayer and worship life, Pastor's, pp 939-940. Read

Module 2 - Sept 19- Sept 30, 2005

Week 3 – 4

Pastoral Identity -Who am I?

Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling:

Identity, Pastoral pp. 567-568. Clergy, Empirical studies of, pp. 171-175

Defining Pastoral Care and Counseling

Dictionary of Pastoral Care.... :

Pastoral Care and Counseling p. 845. Pastoral Care pp.832-836.

Pastoral Counseling pp.849-854.

Module 3 – Oct 3 – 14, 2005

Theoretical Perspectives for Understanding the Church and Pastoral Care

Developing a theoretical perspective for Pastoring.

Read: How Your Church Family Works

Perspectives on Congregational pastoral care

Read: The Lay-Driven Church

Module 4 – Oct 17 – Oct 28, 2005

Learning to think like a pastor

Theology from a pastoral care and counseling perspective.

Dictionary of Pastoral Care.... Pastoral Theology pp. 867-872, Pastoral Theological

Methodology pp. 862-864.

Communication Skills for Pastoral Care

Read: The Lost Art of Listening

Developing a theory for healing, pastoral conversation.

Read and be prepared to discuss: Part I and II Solution-focused Pastoral Counseling

Module 5 – Oct 30 – Nov 11, 2005

Pastoral Care in Varied Situations

Premarital and Marital Counseling

Dealing with Mental Illness in the church

Depression

Suicide

PTSD - Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Module 6 - Nov 14 – Dec 2, 2005

Crisis Counseling & Death and bereavement issues

Read from: Helping People Through Grief

Switzer, David. The Minister As Crisis Counselor

Pastoral Visitation including Hospital Visitation

Pastoring during times of suffering.
Issues in Death and Dying

Maintaining boundaries in ministry
Read: *Is Nothing Sacred* by Marie Fortune
(Team Research Project due on the 18th Nov 2005)

Week of Dec 5-9 Wrap up and Work on the **Case application Due Dec 9, 2005**

Note: Nov 21-25 is reading week on campus - that is why module six has more time. I am gone part of that week. However, let us use that time wisely, since we have a lot more material to cover in module six.